Private Airlines Offering Competition to IA in Cargo Business

3121. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the major private airlines in the country are increasingly becoming competitors of IA to handle the air cargo business ;

(b) if so, what according to study, if any, made by Government are the factors responsible for the loss in credibility of the Indian Airlines in handling the cargo business ;

(c) what is the estimated annual loss likely to be suffered by the Indian Airlines as a result thereof ; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. Carriage of Cargo by Air Taxi operators is negligible as compared to cargo carried by Indian Airlines.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Airport at Bombay

3122. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal under Government consideration to set up a new airport at Bombay in addition to the Sahar and Santa Cruz airports ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ; and

(c) the steps so far taken in pursuance thereof and whether the scheme has been dropped, if so, the reasons therefor and at what stage ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) had set up a Committee to examine possibilities of constructing a new airport in the event the existing international airport at Bombay gets saturated eventually. The Committee came to the conclusion that construction of a new airport may require an investment of the order of Rs. 8600 crores. Since investment of this order is well beyond the capacity of IAAI no action has been initiated on construction of a new airport. A Task Force has been constituted to make an assesement of the extent to which the infrastructures available at the existing airport can be improved and redesigned to enhance the capability of the airport to handle larger volumes of traffic. The Task Force is also required to submit a reasoned and well documented report of the time-frame by which the airport is likely to reach the saturation point in terms of traffic handling after the facilities are optimised.

Signing of MOU by PSUs

3123. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state whether the Government has initiated any action against the PSUs who have not signed MOU with the Civil Aviation Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : The process for signing MOUs with Air-India and Indian Airlines for the year 1993-94 is at an advanced stage. As regards International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority, it has been decided that in view of their proposed merger into a single entity, no MOU will be signed with them during the current financial year.

Officers given Extension of Service in ITDC Hotels

3124. SHRI MATANG SING : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the officials working in the I.T.D.C. Hotels who have been granted extension of service during the last two years ; and

(b) what are the details of the guidelines prescribed by Government for giving extensions to officers and whether those guidelines have been violated in granting extension and if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the last 2 years, no official of ITDC has been granted extension beyond the age of superannuation.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of Airports in Andhra Pradesh

3125. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any proposal under its consideration to improve any of the airports in Andhra Pradesh ;